

MINUTES
ST. PHILIP PARISH COUNCIL
Tuesday, June 16, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.

via ZOOM

Present: Christopher Page, Larry Anthony, Karen Van Rheenen, Greg Ancil, Dave Conway, Raymond Fieltch, Gillian Fosdick, Esther Graham, Sharon Richmond, Jennifer Sharlow.

Regrets/ Absent: Ged McLean, Ken Davidson

1. Open with Prayer

Christopher opened with prayer. – then read a passage of scripture from John 1:35-38 – in which Jesus turns to the followers of John the Baptist and asks, “What are you looking for?” Jesus asks a lot of questions. We are in a time now when we need to ask good questions – open ended questions that will help us to listen and to find new ways of being.

2. Minutes - 19 May 2020

Draft Minutes from the Council Meeting held May 19, 2020 via ZOOM were circulated on June 11. There were no edits or corrections offered.

MOTION: Dave Conway moved that we accept the Minutes as circulated.

SECONDED: Karen Van Rheenen Vote: Carried.

3. Discussion - with input from each member of council - to address the following questions: How do we feel that we can best navigate the summer months in a way that feels genuine and workable for us at St. Philip? -Where do you think we are? – and how do you think we are doing? – is Zoom church working?

- As I read the “re-opening” protocol from the Diocese, my major concerns are – that there will be no singing; that the children must stay with their parents; the physical distancing, the limit on attendance – it sounds very stressful – I think that the ‘negatives’ of these new restrictions will outweigh the positive of getting back together in the church. I think we should stay with Zoom church for the summer.
- It is understandable that the diocese has to be extremely cautious – but at the same time, we must do something to involve families with children. – There is nothing in the new protocols which would be inviting / encouraging to bring the grandchildren.
- Zoom church is going well. I don’t think we should rush to go back too soon. (This comment was echoed many times in the circle – definitely a consensus that we should keep Zoom church going through the summer.)
- Could we do some small get-togethers? – perhaps outside?
- Important to look at the question – in what sense will “in person with protocols” be better than the current Zoom experience?
- Some miss being in the same room (church) with other human beings

- although the list of protocols is long – it is not too complicated – but it is important for parishioners to understand that we won't be back to church – the way it was – for a very long time – if ever.
- Overwhelmed by the grief and great sense of loss that that this all represents – this feels like church is over for me - and it has been something so central – so foundational for so long – that the loss is huge.
- Several council members said – we should keep up what we're doing – with Zoom.
- Concern expressed for 'shut-ins' – those who do not have/ use a computer – as well as those who have health concerns which leave them especially vulnerable.
- Be 'wise like Noah' – stay home – 'in the ark' -- don't rush out too soon. Not sensible to think about starting church before September.
- Would it be worthwhile to try to contact those who are not coming to Zoom church – to find out what they need? – if there is anything we can do to make the experience more inclusive for them? Is there any we can do to make Zoom better?
- For those of us who would normally attend the 11:15 service – we miss the hymns – the music at Zoom is geared to the 9 am congregation. (as it should be – but we still miss the ones we can sing too)
- **ACTION: Phoning Committee** – Sharon will facilitate a phoning committee to be in touch with all parishioners to ask specific questions about their thoughts about Zoom church and worship re-opening in the building at St. Philip within the new parameters laid out by the diocese for safe worship including
 - maintaining 'social distance'; no physical contact, limitations on attendance including sign-in sheets and directional arrows; no congregational singing; no wine at Eucharist; no coffee time fellowship, a great deal of hand sanitizer and vigorous cleaning protocols.
- There is a general consensus that there will be a second wave of the virus in the fall. so, question the wisdom of setting a date and putting a lot of effort into getting back to church.

MOTION: We are agreed that we will not resume 'in-building / at church' worship before September.

Motion: Sharon. Seconded: Larry. Vote: Carried unanimously.

- Karen and Larry have thought through most of the logistics to cover the bases when Christopher takes his holiday / study leave beginning of July 26. He would be absent for six Sundays, returning Monday, August 31.

DISCUSSION about the fall:

Christopher's first Sunday back would be **September 6** (Labour Day weekend)

ACTION: Reopening Preparation Tasks:

Wardens Larry and Karen and a committee of about 8 - who met for the first time June 15, to look at the list of 21 points of 'Reopening Preparations Tasks'

- Can start to put some of these things in place any time.
We will need to have a supply of hand sanitizer; quantities of cleaning products, signs printed and laminated, plexiglass purchased, prayer and hymn books and bibles removed from the pews, etc.
- Question posed earlier about the legal liability of anyone catching the virus after attending a service at St. Philip – was answered by Zena McCreary of the Diocese: who said: "Yes, we do have liability insurance for this scenario which was part of the reason the executive have been so careful in instructing on how to re-open. -- it would be a far fetched possibility as the infected person would have to prove it was contracted at the parish location, that the parish did not follow their own cleaning protocols, and it was not contracted from other places that they may have visited in the previous 14 days.
- Gratitude expressed for candid conversation. The communities that are going to survive are the ones that are able to be creative, flexible, open and willing to experiment. We don't know what is church going to look like in the future – but it will not be like it was before the Covid Virus – and it will likely be very different from our worship services the last time we met in the church, in January or February, 2020. Be creative. Be hopeful. This 'shake-up' may help us to create the vision of a 'Transforming Future.'
- Important too though, to leave time for those who grieve.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. Amen
(2 Cors. 13:14)

No date set for next meeting